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FILED
DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM
OCT 25 2004 9P
MARY L. M. MORAN
CLERK OF COURT

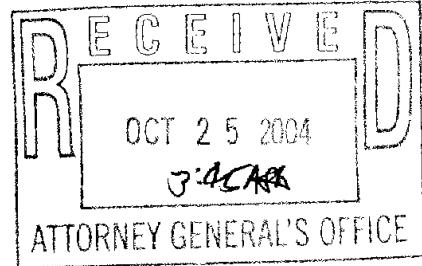
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6 Attorneys for Petitioners

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8 DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM
9 TERRITORY OF GUAM



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11 CIVIL CASE NO. 04-00006

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14 JULIE BABAUTA SANTOS, *et al.*,

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Petitioners,

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17 vs.

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19 FELIX A. CAMACHO, *etc.*, *et al.*,

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21 Respondents.

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I. INTRODUCTION

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On February 12, 2004, Petitioner initiated this Class Action Petition for the
26 recovery of unpaid refundable earned income tax refunds and to compel the full
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1 implementation of the Earned Income Program. On March 11, 2004, Respondents filed
2 an Opposition to the Class Action Petition. This Court issued an expedited Scheduling
3 Order on April 30, 2004, and held a Scheduling Conference on May 26, 2004.
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5 On June 14, 2004, shortly after the local media reported that the Camacho
6 administration permitted one taxpayer to receive his 1998 Earned Income Tax Credit
7 payment, the parties entered into a Settlement Agreement, subject to this Court's
8 approval. The proposed Settlement Agreement created a settlement class, known as
9 the "EIC Class," defined to include all persons who (a) filed Guam income tax returns
10 and (b) were and are entitled to be paid refundable earned income tax credits under the
11 Guam Territorial Income Tax and the Earned Income Program for any or all of the
12 following tax years: 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003.
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14 The proposed Settlement Agreement provided for a Settlement Amount of Sixty
15 Million Dollars (\$60,000,000) to be made available by the Government of Guam to pay
16 for claims made by members of the EIC Class and other fees and expenses in
17 accordance with the Settlement Agreement.
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19 The Government of Guam agreed to pay into an EIC Settlement Fund the
20 amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) by July 17, 2004, and a total of Twenty
21 Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) by the end of June, 2005. Under the proposed
22 agreement, the Government of Guam also agreed to pay an additional Forty Million
23 Dollars (\$40,000,000) over eight years into the fund, and to fully implement and pay
24 refundable earned income taxes for tax years 2004 and beyond.
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26 The parties filed a Consent to the Exercise of Jurisdiction by a United States
27 Magistrate Judge on June 15, 2004. On June 17, 2004, this Court held a Settlement
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1 Conference and issued a Stipulated Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class
2 Action Settlement. The stipulated order included the preliminary approval of the
3 certification of the EIC Class. The stipulated order also required that the notice
4 informing class members of the class action and the proposed settlement be published
5 in local newspapers periodically for three weeks ending on July 9, 2004.
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7 The stipulated order set a deadline of August 9, 2004 for class members to
8 provide written objections to the settlement or to opt out of the EIC Class (the "Objection
9 and Opt Out Date"). Finally, the stipulated order requested this Court set a hearing for
10 final approval of the Settlement Agreement on a date approximately thirty (30) days
11 after the Objection and Opt Out Date.
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13 On June 22, 2004, this Court issued an Order scheduling the hearing on final
14 approval of the Settlement Agreement for September 9, 2004. This Court issued an
15 Order Approving Notice of Class Action and Proposed Settlement on June 24, 2004.
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17 On July 29, 2004, Applicant for Intervention Christina M.S. Naputi filed a motion
18 to intervene. On July 6, 2004, Applicant for Intervention Charmaine Torres filed a
19 motion to intervene.
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21 On July 14, 2004, Petitioners filed a Motion for an order appointing class counsel,
22 or for an alternative order designating interim counsel; for an order preliminarily
23 approving the granting of attorneys' fees; for an order approving additional notices to
24 the proposed class members; and for an order continuing the fairness hearing and
extending the Objection and Opt Out Date.
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26 In conjunction with Petitioners' motion, Petitioners and Respondents executed
27 and filed a stipulation of the parties regarding additional notices to the EIC Class,
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1 extending the Objection and Opt Out Date, and continuing the hearing on final approval
2 of the Settlement Agreement. The parties agreed to the continuance of the Fairness
3 Hearing to November 9, 2004 and extension of the Objection and Opt Out Date to
4 October 9, 2004. Pursuant to the stipulation, the parties also agreed that the
5 Department of Revenue and Taxation, with the approval of the Court, would send an
6 amended notice to all potential members of the EIC Class by August 9, 2004. Finally,
7 the parties agreed that the amended notice would be published immediately at the
8 Government of Guam's expense. The stipulation acknowledged that the Government of
9 Guam failed to fully publish the original notice pursuant to the Stipulated Order Granting
10 Preliminary Approval of the Class Action Settlement. The stipulation declared that the
11 issuance of individual notices to members of the EIC Class regarding the class action
12 and proposed settlement would be best for all parties involved.

13 On July 16, 2004, this Court vacated the original Objection and Opt Out Date of
14 August 9, 2004 and the November 9, 2004 hearing date on final approval of the
15 Settlement Agreement, pending resolution of two Motions for Intervention. This Court
16 also appointed Michael F. Phillips as the interim counsel for the EIC Class. The order
17 did not address the motion for preliminary approval of attorney fees.

18 After the submission of briefs by the parties and the two Applicants for
19 Intervention, this Court issued an Order on August 5, 2004 denying the motions for
20 intervention.

21 II. PLAN OF EIC SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

22 On or about September 8, 2004, Petitioners transmitted a draft Plan of EIC
23 Settlement Administration and other supporting documents, including a draft stipulation

1 to establish the Objection and Opt Out Date and Fairness Hearing Date, to
2 Respondents for their review. Respondents raised concerns regarding the ability of the
3 Department of Revenue and Taxation to offset tax liabilities against Claims made under
4 the Settlement Agreement, and the ability of the Department of Revenue and Taxation
5 to conduct audits of income tax returns in conjunction with its role under the proposed
6 Administration Plan. Both issues have been addressed in the Plan of EIC Settlement
7 Administration submitted to this Court for its approval, attached as Exhibit "A to the
8 Motion for Orders Approving the Administration Plan and Amended Notice And For
9 Orders Establishing the Fairness Hearing Date and Objection and Opt Out Date" (the
10 "Administration Plan").

11 As provided above, the Settlement Agreement called for payment by the
12 Respondents of sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) in several installments and the
13 creation of an EIC Settlement Fund for the benefit of EIC Class Members. Part A of
14 Section V of the Settlement Agreement requires that this Court approve an
15 Administration Plan to be agreed upon by the parties.

16 The Settlement Agreement required at a minimum that the Administration Plan
17 address several issues, including, but not limited to: (1) the administration of the EIC
18 Settlement Fund by the Department of Revenue and Taxation; (2) The procedure upon
19 which the Department of Revenue and Taxation will identify members of the EIC Class
20 and distribute Notices and Claim Forms for the processing of refundable earned income
21 tax credits; (3) The procedure to administer the EIC Settlement Fund, including the
22 determination of the Payment Rates to pay Claims under the Settlement Agreement; (4)
23 the priority for the payment of Claims to EIC Class Members based on the applicable
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1 tax years; and (5) other terms to carry out the Settlement Agreement or as required by
2 this Court.

3 Consistent with the Settlement Agreement, the Administration Plan defines the
4 recovery achieved for Guam taxpayers who qualify as EIC Class Members, outlines the
5 proposed plan for calculations and payments to individuals, sets out methods used to
6 identify and notify EIC Class Members regarding the procedure to institute Claims, and
7 lists the duties and responsibilities of the Department of Revenue and Taxation, and
8 counsel for the parties. All matters relating to the Administration Plan are subject to
9 further orders as the Court may issue. The Plan of Settlement Administration is fair,
10 reasonable, and in the best interest of EIC Class Members and should be approved by
11 this Court.

13 III. AMENDED NOTICE

14 For purposes of notifying the class, and consistent with the Settlement
15 Agreement and the parties' previous agreement, Petitioners request that the Court
16 approve the amended notice, attached hereto as Exhibit "B" to Petitioners' Motion, and
17 require that the amended notice be published and mailed to potential class members on
18 an individual basis, beginning immediately after the Court's approval.

19 The amended notice would clarify the existence of a motion for attorney fees,
20 and class members' opportunity to provide objections to such a motion, as is required
21 under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(h). The amended notice would also refer to
22 the appointment of Mr. Phillips as interim class counsel, clarify that the EIC Class has
23 been preliminarily approved pursuant to this Court's issuance of the Stipulated Order
24 Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement on June 17, 2004, and refer
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to the updated dates concerning the "Objection and Opt Out Date" and the hearing for final approval of the Settlement Agreement.

Petitioners request this Court approval of a procedure requiring that the amended notice be mailed by the Department of Revenue and Taxation to potential EIC Class Members by November 25, 2004. Potential EIC Class Members will be identified and located by a review of the reported income and filing status of Guam income tax returns filed beginning with tax year 1996, and then tax years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003. The amended notice will be mailed to the last mailing address from the EIC Class Member's most recent filed Guam income tax return.

Petitioners request this Court's approval of a procedure requiring that the amended notice be published, at the Government of Guam's expense, in both local newspapers immediately upon this Court's approval.

Consistent with the Settlement Agreement and the parties' previous agreement, and in order to provide potential class members with additional time to file objections or to opt out of the class, Petitioners request that this Court establish January 25, 2005 as the "Objection and Opt Out Date". Petitioners anticipate that with the amended notice published and individually sent by the Department of Revenue and Taxation by November 25, 2004, the class members will have at least sixty (60) days to provide written objections to the proposed settlement or to opt out of the class.

Finally, Petitioners request, consistent with the Settlement Agreement, that this Court schedule February 25, 2005 for the hearing on final approval of the Settlement Agreement, or such other date convenient to the Court.

IV. SCHEDULING ORDER

On April 30, 2004, this Court issued an expedited scheduling order. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement reached between the parties, the stipulations of the parties on record before this Court, and this Court's preliminary approval of the Settlement Agreement, Petitioner respectfully requests this Court vacate the scheduling order.

Respectfully submitted this 25th day of October, 2004.

PHILLIPS & BORDALLO, P.C.
Attorneys for Petitioners

By: _____
Michael F. Phillips